

REMARKS

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated April 9, 2008, found that Applicants' Response and Amendment dated December 28, 2007 was non-compliant because it added new claim 42, but did not present any arguments regarding the newly added claim. The present response is supplemental to, and incorporates by reference, Applicants' Response and Amendment dated December 28, 2007. By the present response, Applicants present arguments regarding new claim 42.

Independent claim 42 recites "a method for secure electronic registration and voting" comprising the steps of "identifying and authenticating a user," "registering the user to vote with the user's local election office," "creating an electronic ballot," "allowing the user to vote using the electronic ballot," and "tabulating and reconciling the electronic ballots." According to claim 42, the step of "tabulating and reconciling the electronic ballots" includes "providing a local election office with a token and a tabulation computer and requiring one local election official to install the token and login to the tabulation computer and a second election official to login to a central hosting facility to access the electronic ballots." As explained in the Specification, the dual login requirement is a security measure designed to ensure that the ballot tabulation is fair and accurate. (See Specification at ¶ 75.) Applicants respectfully submit that U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0138341 to Rodriguez et al. ("Rodriguez") does not teach or suggest all the features of claim 42. Rodriguez discloses a voting system "in which voter registration and voting are conducted electronically over a network." (See Rodriguez at ¶ 2.) Rodriguez also discloses a method for tabulating electronic ballots. (See Rodriguez at ¶¶ 55-58.) Rodriguez does not, however, teach or suggest the dual login feature that is recited by claim 18 of the present application. Instead, Rodriguez explains that, "[t]o process a voted electronic ballot, TR personnel 114 can access the computer database residing on the TR server 110 through, for example, a TR admin workstation." (See Rodriguez at ¶ 56.) The dual login feature as recited in Applicants' present claims provides a significant added level of additional security to the system that renders it a significant improvement over the system disclosed by Rodriguez. Rodriguez does not mention that a dual login is required to access the ballots, nor is there any rationale suggesting that such a requirement would be useful.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the currently pending

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Response and Amendment, dated May 7, 2008

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated April 9, 2008

claims are allowable over Rodriguez. Favorable reconsideration of the claims is requested, including removal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Respectfully submitted,

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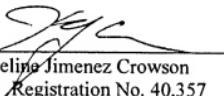
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